

Reviewers push Gulf mediation

AMMAN (R) — Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky, who recently has offered to mediate in Iran-Iraq peace talks, is visiting Jordan to discuss Gulf peace and other issues, Tamer Radhi said Monday. Foreign Ministry spokesman Marwan Sarrad said Petrovsky would give a message from Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze to Jordan Foreign Minister Ali Al-Ali. Yesterday, when they met, "All matters of mutual interest would be on the agenda," Sarrad told Reuters when asked if Petrovsky, who arrived in Jordan Sunday, would discuss Moscow's mediation proposal. Iran and Iraq, deadlocked in U.N.-mediated peace talks which followed their August 1980 conflict, welcomed in January an offer by Shevardnadze to host a meeting of their foreign ministers in Moscow. The Soviet Union's position as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council and its good relations with both Iran and Iraq were seen as important advantages in its role as mediator.

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King to open ATF meeting

AMMAN (I.T.) — The annual meeting of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) will open in Amman next Saturday under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein and with the participation of delegates from various Arab states. The conference, which will be attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, will be held under the slogan "education in the Arab World during the 21st century." The meeting will review a general report for 1989 and hear speeches from the participants, all prominent scholars and scientists from Jordan and other Arab countries.

Mubarak's Moscow visit rescheduled

MOSCOW (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's postponed visit to the Soviet Union, the first by an Egyptian leader in 18 years, has been rescheduled for later this month. TASS news agency said the visit, originally planned for March, would take place in mid-May, but gave no further details. Mubarak's visit was postponed because Soviet leaders could spare no time to see him amid a key session of the country's parliament, which extended Mikhail Gorbachev's powers as executive president.

Pakistan orders probe into blast

LAHORE (AP) — The government ordered an investigation Monday into the bombing of an express train in which 13 passengers died, and one official suggested India or Afghanistan might have been involved. No one claimed responsibility. For Sunday's blast, which also injured 40 people, "I do not rule out the possibility of either an Indian or Afghan hand behind it," Railways Minister Zafar Leghari told reporters hours after a two-kilogramme bomb ripped through the first-class car of an express train bound for the southern port city of Karachi. Twelve people died at the scene Sunday, and one person died of massive injuries at a Lahore hospital Monday, authorities said.

Prominent Tamil politician shot dead

COLOMBO (R) — Motorcycle gunmen shot dead a leading Tamil member of parliament and critically wounded his wife in the Sri Lankan capital Monday, military sources said. The two gunmen opened fire on the car of politician Sam Thambimuttu as he and his wife Kala drove to the Canadian high commission (embassy) in Colombo to collect visas. Police said the identity of the gunmen was not known. Political sources said they were suspected members of the powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrilla group. Thambimuttu, a 58-year-old lawyer, had accused the Tigers of abducting his wife and son for about four days.

Antigua probes Israeli arms

TEL AVIV (R) — Officials from the Caribbean island of Antigua were arriving Monday to investigate a weapons shipment that ended in the hands of Colombian drug dealers, the foreign ministry said. A spokesman said Israel sold the government of the tiny state of Antigua and Barbuda Galil rifles and Uzi submachine guns in 1989 but Antiguan officials denied ordering or receiving any weapons. The 500 weapons and ammunition, worth some \$200,000, were recovered by Colombian government officials after Colombian druglord Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha was killed by police in December 1989.

French lawyer missing in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese police said Monday they were searching for a French lawyer believed missing in Beirut. Marcel Paul Coeck was last seen April 30 at the fashionable Bristol Hotel in west Beirut, they said. The lawyer, 43, booked into the hotel April 27 and disappeared three days later, one of the hotel managers told Reuters.



His Majesty King Hussein Monday confers with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz (Petra photo)

120,000 under curfew in West Bank and Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army

confined more than 120,000 Palestinians to their homes in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank Monday and at least seven residents were wounded in clashes with soldiers on Sunday.

Mohammad Khalid Musa was shot in the head during stone-throwing in the town, on the border with Egypt.

Palestinians said the army shot and wounded at least 14 people Sunday during spontaneous demonstrations in the camp, and town, which have a combined population of some 100,000, after news of the boy's death reached the streets.

The army also confined residents of the Tulkarm refugee camp and the nearby village of Masha to their homes to prevent protests after a camp resident was shot dead Saturday in clashes with troops.

Stores and shops were closed in the town of Tulkarm Monday in mourning.

Residents said soldiers shot and wounded two Palestinians while they filmed the clashes.

17 killed in E. Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Seventeen people were killed, including five wounded in an east Beirut shelter, and 31 wounded Monday as rival Christian forces pounded each other with rocket launchers and artillery, security sources said.

They said troops loyal to General Michel Aoun and militiamen of the Lebanese Forces (LF) were using tanks, multi-barrel rocket launchers and artillery in their latest fighting amid the houses of the city.

One shell pierced an underground bomb shelter, killing five people in the Aoun-held Al Farar residential district, the sources said.

Several apartment buildings and filling stations were set ablaze in the 800-square-kilometre enclave.

The fighting marked a sharp escalation of the 3½-month-old battle for mastery of the Christian community.

The fatalities included a Lebanese army captain killed when several rounds of artillery shells strayed from the embattled enclave and crashed in the western sector of the capital. Four civilians were wounded in west Beirut.

The thuds of exploding shells sent the population of both sectors of the city running to basements and bomb shelters for cover.

It was not clear what caused the flare-up, and each side put the blame on the other. The clashes erupted at midnight (2100 GMT Sunday). The deputy, who asked for anonymity, said the issue was brought up in Parliament and was referred to the Lower House's administrative committee and had not yet been presented to a full House session for a vote. The House is now in recess and is expected to reconvene later this month.

Women move to block male hairdresser ban

By Ghadeer Taha
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A decision by the Ministry of Interior to ban male hairdressers from beauty parlours catering to women has sparked a controversy, prompting a group of women to start planning a campaign to pressure the government to reverse the decision.

The women's group met Monday to plan a strategy to put pressure on the concerned authorities not to pass or enforce the decision by the ministry, according to one of the participants at the meeting.

"The implications of the decision is not limited to banning male hairdressers in beauty salons for women," she told the Jordan Times. "This is a clear violation of civil liberties and a clear indication that the government is only listening to one political group in the country at the expense of others," she added. "What is the next step; will they ban male gynaecologists?"

The decision by the ministry, disclosed in a local Arabic newspaper Sunday, is widely seen as a result of pressure on one of their professions," he said. "There are more unemployed women than men, so this could be considered as a positive move for women and the economy."

Several years ago, the cassation court, which is Jordan's highest court of law, heard a case in which the Municipality of Irbid banned male hairdressers from practising in the city. In its ruling, the court overturned the municipal decision saying that men were free to practise the profession.

Members of the hairdressers

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan, S. Arabia stress need for Arab unity

King: No plan to shift summit from Baghdad

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — There is no intention to shift the venue for a proposed extraordinary Arab summit from Baghdad, His Majesty King Hussein said Monday after talks with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz.

"The (proposed) summit will be held in Baghdad and there is no intention whatsoever to change the location to somewhere else," the King said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, after talks with Prince Abdullah, who arrived here earlier in the day from Baghdad.

"I hope that Arab leaders will work to make this summit successful and I also hope that our brethren in Syria and Iraq will reconvene soon," the King told Petra.

The King said he had no knowledge that Saudi Arabia was seeking to convene a mini-summit of the leaders of Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia in a bid to settle Syrian-Iraqi differences

and clear the way for a full-scale summit.

The King emphasised the need to convene an extraordinary summit in the Iraqi capital during this month, and said the "grave challenges facing the Arab World warrant such a conference where the Arab heads of state can discuss means of fending off the looming dangers."

"Pan-Arab security will be the main item on the summit's agenda since the current challenges constitute a real danger to comprehensive Arab security," the King was quoted as saying by Petra.

The King said his recent talks with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia covered the current situation in the Arab World and means to bolster Arab solidarity. "Saudi Arabia and Jordan are in the forefront of Arab states striving to ensure Arab solidarity and promote understanding," he said.

Petra said the King's talks with Prince Abdullah dealt with preparations for the proposed summit, particularly Saudi efforts to create the opportunity atmosphere to convene it and "crystallise a

united Arab stand on dangers threatening Arab national security and the Arab Order."

Prince Minister Mudar Badran said the visit to Jordan by Prince Abdullah was within the framework of distinguished Jordanian-Saudi relations constantly promoted by the Saudi and Jordanian monarchs.

Badran voiced appreciation of Saudi Arabia's efforts to bring about solidarity among Arab countries and said Jordan would maintain coordination in efforts in this regard with Saudi Arabia.

Badran said Jordan was optimistic that the proposed summit would give further momentum to collective Arab action in the face of the present critical circumstances.

In other developments related to the proposed summit:

— Syria restated its position that it would not attend a summit if held in Baghdad and instead called for an Arab foreign ministers' meeting to decide on an alternative venue.

— King Fahd said he would pursue efforts to heal inter-Arab rifts despite the apparent setback to current moves as reflected in the Syrian position;

— Saudi Arabia also denied reports that it was seeking to hold a mini-summit prior to a full gathering of all members of the Arab League.

— The Iraqi foreign minister arrived in Cairo for talks with Egyptian leaders and reaffirmed that the summit would be held in the Iraqi capital.

— Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat criticised unidentified Arab states for withholding response to his call for the extraordinary Arab summit.

In Damascus, Syrian officials said Syria had proposed that Arab foreign ministers meet in Tunis to find an alternative venue for the summit.

The officials said Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharra co-chaired Syria's decision Monday to Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi, who arrived in Damascus Sunday night.

The Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) quoted Sharra as telling Klibi: "Fixing a venue for the summit without prior consultations... has cast a negative atmosphere in advance of the conference, and this certainly is not in the interest of the Arab Nation."

Sharra, SANA added, suggested that "the Arab League Council convened to conduct consultations on a convenient venue and date for the summit and to agree on the topics to be discussed at the forum."

(Continued on page 5)

Khalaf calls for 'firm' Soviet action to curb Jewish exodus

KUWAIT (Agencies) — A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader said Monday the Soviet Union was not doing enough to check Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel and urged President Mikhail Gorbachev to take "a firm attitude" on the issue at his summit with U.S. President George Bush.

"The measures taken so far by the Kremlin are good, but stop short of curbing the Soviet Jewish emigration," said Salah Khalaf, second in command in Fatah, the main component in the PLO.

"We appeal to President Gorbachev to take a firm, courageous and principled stand on this question when he meets with President Bush so as to ensure that immigration by Soviet Jews does not endanger our land and existence," Khalaf told the Associated Press in an interview.

"The protection of human rights should not be confined to the rights of the Jews, but should also apply to the Palestinian rights as well," he said.

Gorbachev and Bush are scheduled to meet May 30.

Khalaf noted that the Soviets

have called for a U.N. Security Council session in a bid to obtain guarantees that Soviet Jews will not settle in the Israeli-occupied territories and that Moscow has stopped direct flights to Israel.

He condemned last month's non-binding resolution by the U.S. Congress recognising a "united Jerusalem" as the capital of Israel.

However, the U.S. administration has refused to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state.

He warned that move could "promote extremist tendencies of both the Arab and Israeli sides and impede the peace process."

But he commended U.S. Secretary of State James Baker for rejecting the Israeli notion that the Jews have the right to settle in occupied areas in Arab Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"Recent statements by Bush and Baker conform with the world's hostility towards the building of settlements in the occupied Arab territories," he said.

Khalaf warned against an imminent Israeli attack on Iraq and Jordan.

He said there was "a high probability" that because of the inability of Israel's main political blocs, Labour and Likud, to form a government, "the Israelis may launch an aggression on Iraq, making benefit of the anti-Iraq campaign led by the United States and Britain."

The other probability is an Israeli attack on Jordan as a step towards realising the long-standing dream of a greater Israel and absorbing the new Jewish immigrants," he said.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said Monday the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel was making the situation in the Middle East even more dangerous.

Arafat gave the warning in a message to a United Nations seminar on Palestine being held in Sweden.

"What makes the situation in the Middle East region more dangerous these days is the tremendous influx of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union and elsewhere," Arafat said.

U.S. threat dominates WHO talks

GENEVA (AP) — The annual assembly of the World Health Organisation (WHO) opened Monday in the shadow of a renewed U.S. threat to cut off all funds if the meeting approves the membership bid of the State of Palestine.

A senior U.S. official said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was not entitled to full voting membership in the U.N. health agency because it did not meet internationally recognised criteria of statehood, including control of territory.

"Our position remains that we are opposed to PLO membership in WHO," said John Bolton, U.S. assistant secretary of state for international organisation affairs.

More than 100 mostly Third World countries have recognised the Palestinian state since it was proclaimed by the PLO's legislative body in November 1988.

Bolton told a press conference that the United States would be pressing to defer the Palestinian application indefinitely and was holding talks with other countries.

Western diplomats say the membership bid is unlikely to be approved by the 167-nation assembly as many Third World countries fear a U.S. funding cutoff.

Moscow puts up show of strength in Riga

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet tanks drove through the Latvian capital Monday at morning rush hour before a parliamentary session to form a new government to take the republic to full independence.

Tanks and other armoured vehicles rumbled through the streets of Riga around 8 a.m. ostensibly to prepare for a Victory Day parade Wednesday to mark the 45th anniversary of Nazi Germany's defeat.

Many Latvians saw the manoeuvres as a tactic by Moscow to intimidate them over Latvia's declaration of independence.

"This morning's parade made people very nervous because they did it during rush hour, and we think the military did it on purpose," said Latvian radio journalist Janis Ozolas.

"To stop transport at 8 a.m., I think they are trying to provoke us," said Ozolas reached by telephone.

The manoeuvres lasted only a short time and the military vehicles left the city centre soon afterwards.

A spokeswoman for the parliament, which declared Latvia "an independent, democratic republic," Friday, said there were calls for local residents to stay away from the Victory Day parade.

"People will boycott and just

Lahd: Hostage deal must include SLA men, Israelis

2 American senators call on Israel to free Arab 'hostages'

TEL AVIV (R) — Some 350 Lebanese Muslim prisoners, most held in southern Lebanon by a militia wholly dependent on Israel, have become a central issue in efforts to gain the release of more Western hostages held in Lebanon.

Two senior U.S. senators, Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Republican Robert Dole, speaking out publicly while the Bush administration remains diplomatically silent, urged Israel Sunday to free its Arab "hostages."

But Israel insists its captives, mostly from the pro-Iranian Shi'ite Hezbollah (Party of God) movement that is believed to control Lebanon's shadowy hostage-takers, will only be traded for six Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon.

A senior Israeli official said recently the Jewish state would release "not one hair on the beard" of its Shi'ite prisoners until Israel's own men come home.

After releasing two American hostages, Robert Pollard and Frank Reed, last month Hezbollah and Iran have demanded Washington pressure Israel into freeing its Lebanese captives before the remaining 15 Western hostages are released.

The best known Shi'ite prisoner is Sheikh Abd al Karim Obeid, a senior Hezbollah cleric in South Lebanon who was snatched from his home by helicopter-borne Israeli commandos last July.

Security sources say Obeid is one of the few prisoners held at a military base inside Israel.

Most are kept by the South Lebanon Army (SLA) of General Antoine Lahd at a prison in Kham in Israel's self-declared "security zone," an arm's-length arrangement by which Israel evades direct responsibility for their detention and denies the International Committee of the

Petrovsky in Iran to discuss Gulf peace

NICOSIA (R) — Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky, whose country has offered to mediate in Iran-Iraq peace talks, is visiting Iraq to discuss Gulf peace and other issues, Tehran Radio said Monday.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Morteza Sarmadi said Petrovsky would give a message from Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati when they met.

"All matters of mutual interest would be on the agenda," Sarmadi told Reuters when asked if Petrovsky, who arrived in Tehran on Sunday, would discuss Moscow's mediation proposal.

Iran and Iraq, deadlocked in U.N.-mediated peace talks which followed their August 1988 ceasefire, welcomed in January an offer by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to host a meeting of their foreign ministers in Moscow.

The Soviet Union's position as

a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council and its good relations with both Iran and Iraq were seen as important advantages in its role as mediator.

Velayati said then a Soviet deputy foreign minister would visit Tehran to follow up the proposal, but the mission did not materialise and Iranian officials later said it was put off because the Kremlin was pre-occupied with internal problems.

Tehran insisted that the Soviet effort must be within the framework of the Security Council Resolution 598 on the Iran-Iraq conflict.

Apart from the ceasefire which ended eight years of fighting, the resolution calls for withdrawal of troops behind international borders, repatriation of 100,000 prisoners of war and other steps towards a settlement.

Iran last week repeated its rejection of Iraqi calls for direct and separate peace talks.

But Iran's National Security Council and the parliament's

New evidence admitted in Demjanjuk trial

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's supreme court Monday admitted as evidence accounts from two Polish witnesses who could cast doubt on whether Oskar Schindler, the sadistic Nazi death camp guard "Ivan the terrible,"

The Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk, 70, was sentenced to death in April 1988 after being found guilty of operating the gas chambers at the Treblinka Death Camp in Nazi-occupied Poland during World War II.

Demjanjuk is appealing the sentence, and the first hearing is

scheduled for May 14.

Demjanjuk has insisted that he is a victim of mistaken identity.

He has said that he spent most of the war in German prisoner-of-war or transit camps after being captured as a Red Army soldier.

The evidence, admitted by the high court Monday, appears to back Demjanjuk's claim. It stems from a married couple, identified in court as Mr. Dudek and Maria Dudek, residents of Vnukovo, a tiny village near the former site of Treblinka.

The couple has claimed that the notorious "Ivan" carried the

last name Marchenko, not Demjanjuk, Demjanjuk's attorney Yoram Sheftel, told the court.

Sheftel said Mrs. Dudek, 73, still was a resident of Vnukovo.

Ogromski. He told the Associated Press that she lived in a bare wooden shack and worked as a milk-maid. During World War II, Dudek ran a bar and his wife entertained the guard Ivan at least several times, he said.

Dudek, who gave his account to Polish authorities several years ago, has since died, prosecutor Michael Shaked told the court.

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Heart Day race set for Friday

By Caroline Fariz
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Heart Day race will be held in Amman Friday under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein to help raise funds for the treatment of heart patients in Jordan according to Dr. Adnan Hamawi, chairman of an organising committee.

The race, he said, will begin at Amman Plaza Hotel at 10:30 a.m. and will finish at the University of Jordan where the Queen will distribute cups and awards to men, women and children who come first in the race.

"Altogether 20 awards are to be distributed to the competitors according to Hamawi who gave details about the race at a press conference Monday.

Hamawi said that each competitor will have to pay JD 1 for participation and for obtaining a T-shirt for the race. "Anybody can take part in the race which is

open to all Jordanians," he added.

The race is organised by the Jordanian Chest and Heart Surgeons Society which held similar races in Amman in 1988 and 1989.

Contributions collected in the two previous races, he said, have been financing the treatment of needy patients and the purchase of medicine and medical examination for other patients.

The society has contacted national organisations to get their support and their contributions and has now registered more than 700 participants mostly schoolchildren, a figure expected to reach 1,500 by Friday, Hamawi said.

The society, which was established in 1988, has not yet received any contributions for its efforts from hospitals and pharmaceutical firms in Jordan, the society has now established its headquarters near the University of Jordan, Hamawi said.

Swedish archaeologists are active in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) Two Swedish archaeological expeditions are currently active in Jordan. This week a team consisting of several Scandinavian archaeologists, among them the Swedish Professor Magnus Ottosson from Uppsala, arrived at Irbid to start digging north-east of the city in a small tell (hill) that could be an important Aramaic border fortification.

The second Swedish archaeological expedition in Jordan is led by Dr. Peter Fischer from the University of Gothenburg. Dr. Fischer's project, which was

started last year, is located just south of Pella in the Jordan Valley. Walls and other finds in the area could be dated as early as the Bronze Age period (2500 B.C.).

This project is officially supported by the Swedish government through its Agency for International Technical and Economic Cooperation to an amount of JD 107,000 during four years.

The projects are planned and carried out in cooperation with the Jordanian Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.

Hospital opens in Rweished

RWEISHED (J.T.) — A 10-bed hospital was opened here Monday to offer medical services to the local population and the travellers on the Amman-Baghdad road.

The small hospital, situated some 100 kilometers from the border with Iraq has been provided with all essential equipment and staff, according to Dr. Nael Ajlouni acting director general of the National Medical Institution (NDI).

Ajlouni, who inaugurated the premises, inspected the emergency unit, the operations theatres, the specialists section, the laboratories, the X-ray and pharmacy areas.

Ajlouni said the Rweished Hospital would be an extension of the nearest government hospital located in Mafraq.

"The new hospital will be useful not only for the local residents but for the travellers to and from Iraq and will be providing emergency services to victims of road accidents along the route," Ajlouni said.

In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Ajlouni said the Rweished Hospital is small compared with the other hospitals in the Kingdom, and therefore it is not possible to provide it with all forms of spe-

cialised medical services which can be obtained at Mafraq.

Following the inauguration ceremony, Ajlouni visited Mafraq Hospital and was briefed on its services to the Badia and eastern regions of Jordan.

Rweished Hospital is considered part of the government's current efforts to develop the Hammad basin which includes Rweished and other areas close to the Iraqi, Syrian and Saudi Arabian borders.

In March 1990, the Ministry of Agriculture and three local companies signed agreements to help carry out parts of a project for the development of the Rweished region. The agreements were for providing water pumps and operating two artesian water wells at a cost of JD 90,000.

According to Mohammad Shakhrekh, director of the Hammad project, Jordanian firms have already drilled six artesian wells with an overall capacity of one million cubic metres of water annually, to provide sufficient water supplies for the local residents and the livestock.

"Other civil works pertaining to the projects in Rweished, including two desert dams together storing up to 13 million cubic metres of water and a veterinary centre, have also been carried out," Shakhrekh said.

Petra hosts third annual competition for horses

AMMAN (J.T.) — The third annual competition for the best-kept and best-tamed-out horse was held at Petra for the tourist horses last Friday morning. It was to encourage owners to look after their horses and improve the standard of care of saddlery as well as horses. Points were awarded for the cleanliness, safety and correctness of saddlery in addition to the cleanliness and condition of the horses.

The first prize saddle was won by Mohammad Elia Sharaf with his very smart chestnut mare, the second prize a bridle, was won by Saleh Ibrahim Al Falahat, and the third prize, JD 15, was won by Ahmad Mohammad Mashraf.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITION

★ Art exhibition by Mouria Al Iraqi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of Jordanian national heritage at the Amman International Community College.

★ Exhibition of traditional industries and handicrafts displaying rugs, kufi-ware, traditional costumes and brass works at Madaba Resthouse.

FILM

★ Documentary programme entitled "American Art in the Sixties" at the American Centre — 6:00 p.m.

LECTURE

★ Lecture entitled "The Stratigraphical Importance of Some Microfossils for the Middle Triassic in Jordan" by Dr. Walid Sadeek at the Geotek Institute — 7:00 p.m.

Sweden gives Jordan preferential treatment

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Swedish government decided in March that Jordan will, from May 1, 1990, receive preferential treatment within the Swedish scheme of generalised system of preferences, Sweden's ambassador to Jordan Lars Lonnback announced here Monday.

"This means, in very simplified terms, that a very large number of Jordanian products that until now would have been subject to customs duties in Sweden can be imported by Sweden without such duties," the ambassador said at the opening of a two-day seminar on marketing Jordanian products in Sweden held at the Amman Chamber of Industry.

Lonnback said Jordan and Sweden need to learn from and support each other in the fields of industry services, infrastructure, health care or social services, education and culture.

"Both countries need a balanced and sustainable development of their economies including economic growth coupled with a safe environment, jobs and security for their people," the ambassador said.

However, the ambassador said over the past three and a half years trade from Sweden to Jordan had fallen from around JD 20 million to around JD 15 million, and Jordanian exports to Sweden have declined to JD 0.3 million down from JD 1 million.

"Sweden's interest in this seminar, he said, is to inform Jordanian exporters and businessmen about Swedish markets and how to sell to Sweden," the ambassador said.

"Jordan embarked on an eco-

nomic restructuring programme two years ago in order to promote exports, solve economic problems and boost its national industry," said Fariz in his address to the meeting.

"To carry out this programme the Ministry of Industry and Trade has started providing facilities for new industrial investments, offering incentives to industry, encouraging exports of industrial products and providing protection to the local industries," Fariz pointed out.

In the course of implementing this policy, he said, work is underway to promote the functions and the role of the Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC) which is entrusted with acting for Jordanian industrialists in promoting and marketing national products; it facilitates procedures for investors who are offered numerous incentives.

The minister announced that the Ministry of Industry and Trade has now embarked on establishing a national corporation to generate credit for exports.

Referring to the economic restructuring programme in Jordan, Fariz said it aims, among other things, at helping the country overcome the recurring deficit in the balance of trade and in the fiscal budget.

Swedish experts and Jordanian industrialists and businessmen are among those attending the seminar which is sponsored by the Swedish embassy and the Federation of Swedish Commerce and Trade and the Amman Chamber of Industry.

"Jordan embarked on an eco-

Rural development is closely linked to education — UNESCO

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-day symposium was opened in Amman Monday to discuss the role of schools in developing local communities and linking education with community needs.

The symposium, organised by the Amman-based regional office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) will review several working papers on education and its links to rural development in the light of a pilot project being implemented at a girl's secondary school in the village of Marsaa in the Jerash district.

UNESCO representative and director of the regional office in Amman, Dr. Mohammad Kazem, told the meeting that a village school should have an essential role in local commun-

ities development. "Such a school should not confine its services to providing education, but should try to link basic education with the needs of the local communities through undertaking developmental activities designed to improve the standard of families in rural regions," Kazem said.

"UNESCO has now implemented a pilot project at Marsaa near Jerash, as a trial scheme which, if proved successful, could be adopted in other regions of the Kingdom," Kazem added.

He said the pilot school project in the rural area is part of an established UNESCO policy of promoting education in rural regions of the Arab World.

The meeting was opened by

Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan who stressed that education is an essential tool for bringing about change in society.

Any change in the educational system of a country, Hamdan said, should be coupled with changes in the performance and the objectives of schools especially in rural areas.

"The Ministry of Education has given due attention to this concept in education and is now cooperating with UNESCO to implement a pilot project at Marsaa school for girls," the minister said.

The Marsaa village school will serve as a model for all rural schools which, he said, should be closely linked to the local community.

Conference on fertilisers reviews Arab cooperation in the field

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Federation of Chemical Fertilisers Producers (AFCFP) opened its fourth meeting in Amman Monday to discuss matters related to coordination and cooperation among various Arab countries in the fertiliser industry," Ensour said.

Several working papers dealing with the fertiliser industry, exchange of expertise, planning future projects and other affiliated topics will be reviewed at the three-day meeting.

Arab Potash Company (APC) Managing Director Ali Ensour told the opening session the chemical fertiliser industry is no less important to the world than the oil industry simply because fertilisers are needed by all nations of

the world for farming and to increase food production.

"Jordan and Morocco are among the main countries of the world besides the United States and the USSR in producing minerals used in the fertiliser industry," Ensour said.

He said Jordan abounds with phosphate and potash which are essential to the fertiliser industry and the Dead Sea provides a constant source of potash and other very useful minerals.

Jordan, he said, currently produces 4.4 million tonnes of fertilisers, expected to reach 2.2 million by the year 1996.

The meeting, which is attended by representatives of various

Arab states, was opened by Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Fariz who described Jordan and the Arab World as a rich source of minerals and primary materials for industry and agriculture.

The meeting, he said, is being held amid fast moving developments in the world of fertiliser industry and world economic transformations which place added challenges before the Arab Nation.

To meet the challenges, the minister said, further measures for coordination and cooperation among the fertiliser industries are badly needed, especially as fertilisers are used to ensure food security for the Arab World.

The meeting, he said, is being held amid fast moving developments in the world of fertiliser industry and world economic transformations which place added challenges before the Arab Nation.

It is unfortunate that the Arab reaction and position is not equivalent to the aggressive and provocative American

resolution.

One of the aims of the union, as announced by members of the preparatory committee at a press conference late last month, is "to face and combat the dangers of Zionism/

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Jordan Times

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National Charter and constitutional hurdle

THE Royal Commission entrusted with the mandate to draft the proposed National Charter encountered the first major hurdle when it deliberated over the issue of the legal standing of the charter. While some members of the commission argued that this issue does not fall within the purview of the commission's mandate, others argued otherwise. Technically, the mandate given to the Royal Commission did not go as far as submitting the juridical aspects of the charter to the attention of the commission. Substantively speaking, however, there is no sensible way for the members of the group to debate the contents of the charter without knowing in advance the legal import of such contents. The course of the deliberations over the proposed document would surely be determined by the constitutional and legal implications of the charter.

Understandably, all those members who spoke against injecting the legal dimension of the proposal into the debate lack legal sophistication. To draft the document without determining beforehand its legal significance would indeed be like putting the cart before the horse. Any view to the contrary would simply substantiate persistent fears that the professional qualifications of some members of the Royal Commission are lacking.

The right thing to do now is to have the legal committee of the Royal Commission examine this issue from all its angles and submit in due course its findings to the entire membership of the commission for adoption. Since the commission is considering what is essentially a legally binding document, the non-legal minded members of the commission would be well advised to give the recommendations of the legal committee full faith and credit. It is unfortunate that this particular subject was not discussed beforehand by the promoters of the idea of the charter. By brushing it aside till this late hour they only have complicated the debate over the whole issue. But better late than never. The legal vacuum created by such suspension of the consideration of the legal dimension of the charter thus needs rectification and now is the time to do it.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN Arabic dailies on Monday commented on the prospects of an Arab summit meeting which they said was of urgent need to help the Arabs plan for action in the immediate future.

Al Ra'i daily said that the summit will be the first real step towards putting an end to conspiracies hatched by the enemies of the nation, and an end to enemy plans to impose hegemony on the Arab World. With the convening of the summit, the Arabs will prove to the world that they can rise to the occasion and can protect their national interests and attain the aspired peace, the paper noted. By convening a summit, the Arabs will show their real awareness of the serious challenges their nation is now facing and the dimension of danger inherent in the enemy plans and conspiracies, the paper continued. The Jewish immigration to Palestine, the hostile media campaign against Iraq and the continued Israeli occupation of Palestine should come to an end through a peaceful and just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the paper noted. It said that justice cannot be confined to certain nations alone, and should encompass the Arab region and benefit the Palestinians who have been struggling for freedom.

A columnist in Al Ra'i says that the dangers posed to the Arab Nation make it incumbent on Iraq and Syria to reconcile and work together, starting from an Arab summit which is to be held in Baghdad shortly. Tareq Masa'weh notes that both Iraq and Syria have sustained damage to their own interests as a result of Turkey's water strategy and in matters related to oil. It is high time for Baghdad and Damascus to realise that their national interests are in real jeopardy now in view of the continued Israeli expansionist policies and the Jewish immigration into Palestine, the writer notes. He says that Arab leaders ought to realise that Israel is striving to expand its occupied territory to include all of Lebanon, all of Jordan, three quarters of Iraq, one third of Saudi Arabia and all of Syria in order to ensure oil and water resources for its expanding and ever growing population. In view of these grave dangers the Baghdad summit ought to be convened and the mediators of King Hussein and Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz to end differences between Baghdad and Damascus should by all means succeed if the Arabs are bent on protecting their existence and national interests, the writer concludes.

Al Dustour daily also tackled the prospect of an Arab summit under the present circumstances and in a bid to lend real help to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. The paper echoed earlier editorials that the dangers are immense and the challenges posed by Israel and its allies are very serious, requiring concerted Arab efforts and pooling of resources. The paper noted that the Jordanian leadership has been spearheading efforts towards convening a summit and bringing about reconciliation between Syria and Iraq to pave the way for a successful meeting. The current contacts between the capitals of the Arab World reflect the Arab leaders' realisation of the seriousness of the situation and demonstrate the intentions of Saudi Arabia and Jordan to rally the Arabs in the face of the common challenges, the paper said. It added that the coming summit is deemed essential to deal with the pressing issues and to chart joint action.

New Europe and future relation with the U.S.

By Dr. Radwan Al Abdullah and Dr. Mohammad Kheir Mustafa

IT IS self-evident that pooling of resources at the level of the European Continent and benefiting from the old economic idea of economies of scale will generate a giant economic superpower probably unparalleled in history. For Western Europe there are now two incentives to promote and eventually to establish the "Common European Home." First, the opening up of the Eastern European market to Western goods and services, benefiting from proximity and the privilege the notion of the "Common European Home" would provide. This is purely an economic *raison d'être* which indeed might prove the strongest of incentives considering that winning or losing an election in Western Europe depends very much on economic performance.

The second incentive for the formation of the "Common European Home" is political. It is well established that the dividing line between East and West Europe is not geographical but

rather political. Different political and ideological systems accompanied growing mistrust and a constant fear of military threat. Both the NATO alliance and Warsaw Pact have institutionalised that fear. Now with Communist parties losing their grip on power in Eastern Europe and demonstrators carrying banners advocating freedom, democracy, pluralism and more importantly backing the free-market system have changed the whole scene and altered the basic assumptions that have existed since the World War II. The dividing line is now melting away and the exclusion of Eastern Europe on political grounds from "Europe" (i.e. Western) is losing its *raison d'être*.

There is also evidently growing public pressure on the Western side for closer European cooperation and an emphasis on the "European Character." That was clearly the lesson the Conservative Party in Britain had learned after it lost its majority seats at

the last European parliamentary elections (1989) to the Labour Party which advocated stronger European cooperation, and which also succeeded in portraying the Conservative Party as an unenthusiastic party for European unity. The people's expression on the Eastern side of their willingness for closer European cooperation has been more dramatic with cutting fences, digging "loopholes" and the overthrowing of governments.

To be sure the idea of cooperation between East and West is not a new idea. One only needs to recall the era of detente during the early and mid 1970s and the notion of "peaceful coexistence" to prove that. However, what we are witnessing today differs fundamentally in two respects: First, both detente and peaceful coexistence were instruments for managing conflict by maintaining the existing dividing line. Now the whole purpose of cooperation between Western and Eastern Europe is, in contrast, to abolish that line.

Second, detente and peaceful co-existence were advocated be-

tween two different political systems: "capitalist" (the West) and "non-capitalist" (the East), or depending on ideology: Communist or non-Communist.

With the disappearance of the main obstacles for cooperation between Eastern and Western Europe, namely political and ideological differences, it is conceivable to suggest that the other hindrances for the formation of the European Home will easily be overcome. The first hindrance which comes to mind is that of the difference in industrial development between Western and Eastern Europe. However, a quick glance at the performance of the EC members and that of Eastern Europe countries does suggest that the economic hindrance is not as formidable as it may seem. For instance East Germany's economy is more advanced than those of Portugal, Greece and even Spain. The Soviet Union, if it were to divert part of its military expenditure and that is assuming what it is doing, could become a powerful economic power of its own. Ireland's economy, which is essen-

tially a farming one, is not that superior to many Eastern European countries. Accommodating other Eastern European countries, thus, is not an impossible task.

To talk about a new European region does not require at all a central government for the whole region. Indeed, far from it. Events in Eastern Europe and in particular the revival of nationalism in the Soviet Union clearly reveal that the general trend is for decentralisation of government rather than the reverse. The whole idea of a region is essentially based on defining borders for that region (political as well as geographical) in contrast to the outside world. In other words, it is a matter of asking the question: which country is entitled for membership to this newly formed European club and which is not. No matter how a European region is defined, both the United States and Japan stand aloof from it. That must be what was on Italian Foreign Minister Gianfranco De Michelis' mind; when he stated that Western Europe has been a pillar of attraction to

Doctors Mustafa and Al Abdullah are both assistant professors of political science at the University of Jordan. Dr. Al Abdullah chairs the university's political science department.

Austria: Europe's 'fifth wheel'?

The debate on joining the European Community has been going on in Austria for several years now. The idea has its ardent supporters, sympathetic neutrals and opposition. Hannes Hofbauer, Austrian journalist and deputy editor-in-chief of MOZ magazine, explores the issue.

Franz H. is a farmer living in Lembach, a community located in the wooded area near the border with Czechoslovakia. Life here is not easy with usually severe weather conditions, scarce fodder, and late modest harvests.

Alois Mock to Brussels to announce Austria's intent to join the Community. The statement he made was the result of lengthy and controversial debate.

There has been no answer since Austria seems to still be considered a "fifth wheel" to the cart.

Figuring out the arguments for such a decision is easy. The powerful wind of strong international competition is to drive the more dynamic Austrian companies and enterprises towards a more efficient economy. Jan Stankovsky, an expert in economics, sounds more restrained in his judgement: "The reason why Austria should become part of the all-European market is a desire to eschew the negative consequences of not being officially part of it." The concept of the Europe of 1992 may indeed turn it into a fortress whereby anyone who was not in due time made its "Euroknight" will be discriminated against.

But on the other end of the scale Austria faces a direct threat from sweeping integration within the EC. The strong wind of international competition may well turn into a gale storm, that will wipe out smallholders and artisans, and might cause not a little trouble for pensioners and workers now employed in rather protected industries.

"In the EC it's an early bird that catches the worm," said Austrian Minister of Economy Wolfgang Schüssel. What if you just have not had the luck to make it big? I asked him. "Sorry, but in the economy, as in life itself, there is not only success but failure too." And it is for the "weaklings" older people for example, who have enough hardships as it is - that Austria's membership in the Economic Community bodes no good. The prospect is catastrophic for them, because of the current pace of integration.

In Austria today one hears quite an array of opinions about its role in the all-European market. Politicians have been rapidly changing their assessment, during the past five years, though no one so far thought of speaking about perestroika in Austria. Traditionally, the most ardent and steadfast supporters of Austria's membership in the EC have been members the Industrialists Association and the small liberal Freedom Party of Austria which unites under its banner both old hard-liners and "yuppies".

The Socialist Party of Austria and Austrian People's Party already at the end of 1987 ruled out the possibility of Austria's full membership in the EC for political reasons, i.e. because of the country's neutrality. They proposed concluding an agreement on associate membership. But their orientation has since altered radically, and for the last year and a half only one motto has been heard loudly and clearly, "Membership" or death.

"We should hook on to the EC," says the Socialist Party's General Secretary Josef Cap, "and becoming part of it take up the fight, otherwise we will loose touch with the international market."

The Socialist Party today is basically a radical force bent upon integration, which wants to

step out of the shadow of the workers' party and seek support from its potential voters. These are the so-called new middle class - clerks and managers, engineers, and artists, whose chief common feature is their "European" mentality and a desire to shed the status of a small provincial state.

In the conservative People's Party the industrialists have won a landslide, whereas peasants and artisans are still entangled in a desperate but hopeless struggle for a major say in the party.

Yet together with supporters of the idea of membership in the EC, Austria has a few opponents who view this move in somewhat less rosy colours. They warn against joining a community dominated by the F.R.G. "Twice during this century the Vienna-Berlin axis has brought sorrow upon the heads of our compatriots," they say. It was no trivial matter when back in 1955 Austria announced its intent to remain neutral once and for all.

Erwin Ercz, a member of the Board of the Socialist Party and former foreign minister of Austria, makes his message clear: "The European Community plans to become something more than just an integrated economic union. The European Single Act embodies quite unambiguously a striving for a common military and foreign policy. How then, can a neutral Austria be part of such a union?" Together with some of his associates, Erwin Ercz initiated the movement "Austria and Europe", which emphasises the incompatibility of the country's neutral status with its membership in the European Community.

The "Greens" who have 8 seats in national parliament, are also against EC membership. They are afraid to see Austria turn into

one of Europe's backyards, and these fears are shared by many Austrian peasants who feel that their future is jeopardised. Without state subsidies and state regulation of small business - both of which will be swept away in the process of integration - dozens of thousands of small holdings and enterprises will crumble in the face of strong competition from the outside.

Landowners and agricultural experts from the western lands of the Tyrol and Salzburg have quite a different reason for scepticism. In these areas transit traffic from Bavaria to northern Italy may, with the creation of a single European market, take on such proportions that the Alpine valleys will be faced with an ecological catastrophe. The woods lining the main motorways running across the Alps are already being destroyed and people are driven from their homes. Recent elections to the Landtag in the Tyrol showed that almost 10 per cent of local dwellers demonstrated their traditional outlook by backing the "Greens".

Austria's request for membership in the EC, which can be considered no sooner than 1993 when the creation of a single European market including 12 EC member states is complete, has one important condition: Austria is to remain neutral. Austria declared its neutrality in 1955 and soon signed an agreement with the four powers - winners of the Second World War. The country immediately joined the European Free Trade Area (EFTA), and finally in 1972 it was drawn into the European Community with the signing of a series of agreements between the EFTA and EC, even though it is officially not a member of the community.

The creation of a single European market by the end of 1992, as envisaged in the European Single Act, will present an entirely different situation. Participation in this market will be allowed only for full members of the Community. Joining the EC then will be a hit problematic for neutral Austria if only because the EC, as stated in the Act, seeks to form a defensive union and a single security mechanism.

The Act speaks of a more coordinated and close cooperation of the European countries in matters of European tribute to a single foreign policy for all members of the Community. Voting in the EC, is supposed to be by majority, which makes it impossible for Austria to avoid being engulfed in a war - should it break out - even though it chooses to vote against it. This consideration made the federal government mention in its report to the National Council (parliament) that Austria can not possibly take part in trying to transfer the future integrated Community into a defensive union. That said, there are other problems posed in the area of international trade. A neutral Austria could not join military embargos imposed by the EC, like the one on trade with Argentina at the time of the war over the Falkland Islands.

Maria Berger, chief expert on issues of integration in the office of the federal chancellor, spoke of some other delicate problems Austria's neutrality will cause in the near future. There is no provision for Austria's right to provide itself with all the necessary supplies in times of crisis, yet this right is envisaged in the country's state defence plan. A centralised system of quotas on energy supplies for each country within the EC ties the hands not only of separate

rate enterprises but of entire countries in matters of provision. Moreover, according to the Treaty of Rome, Austria would not be able to prevent or protest the transport of military cargo across its territory. Of the EC's 12 member-states, 11 are members of the NATO alliance. This also is a source of considerable worry for Austria.

All things considered, Austria has no choice, either politically or economically. On the one hand, as a neutral state it can not join military alliances or make itself dependent on them, on the other, this country with a population of 7 million is completely tied to the EC economically. The Community accounts for 60 per cent of Austria's exports and 67 per cent of its imports. Not a very powerful country economically, Austria has a trade deficit and the total worth of its GNP is notably lower than that of the EC members. Goods imported from West technologically-intensive products while the bulk of Austrian exports are made up of semi-finished items.

In a word, Austria's perspective is somewhat gloomy as membership in the EC will mean the country's transition into a peripheral state in the heart of Europe. It is hard to predict today how its position will be affected by the common policy of the EC towards Eastern Europe. The dialogue meant to work out this policy has only just started and concerns a so-called Europe between the EC and the Soviet Union which could with time include Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and East Germany. That is, if the Germans' unification does not hamper this cooperation and a future big Germany does not start expanding eastwards, as it did in 1941 and 1939.

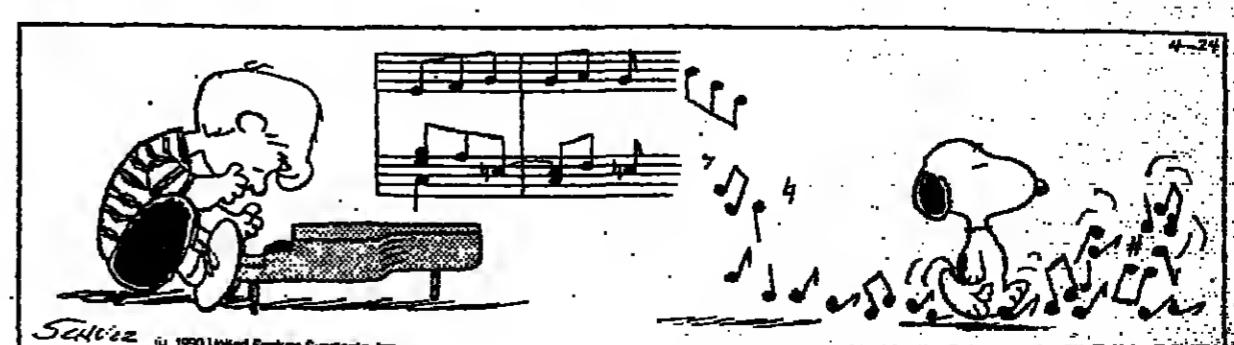
Mutt'n Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



"Taking part in the all-European integration process is of critical importance for Austria," states the working agreement of Austria's coalition government. Since the fall of 1986 it has tried to tackle the issue of the political future of this small republic. In the middle of 1989 the federal government made up of representatives of two major political parties - the Socialist Party of Austria and Austrian People's Party - sent Foreign Minister

to the European Parliament.

The Socialist Party today is basically a radical force bent upon integration, which wants to

oppose the European Parliament.

Group of Seven agrees to boost IMF capacity

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Finance leaders of the world's seven largest industrial powers are paving the way for a 50 per cent boost in the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) capacity, far less than is being sought by loan-hungry nations in Eastern Europe and the developing world.

The Group of Seven (G-7) meeting Sunday endorsed a proposal to raise the capital contributions of the IMF's 152 member nations to \$180 billion from the current \$120 billion.

The increase "would provide the fund with the resources to fulfill its central responsibilities in the world economy," said the group, composed of finance ministers and central bank chiefs of the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus originally sought a 100 per cent increase to enable the fund to support emerging capitalism in Eastern Europe and back Treasury Secretary Nicholas F. Brady's strategy for easing the crushing \$1.3-trillion Third World debt.

Many developing countries are pushing for a bigger increase, and 70 per cent of the IMF membership has supported an increase of two-thirds or more.

The issue moved Monday to the 22-nation interim committee, the IMF policy board. The in-

crease must be approved by 85 per cent of the fund's voting power. The United States, with 20 per cent of the voting power, effectively has a veto on the matter.

"It's going to be a difficult meeting, one that will take some time and some very sensitive listening," said Canadian Finance Minister Michael Wilson, chairman of the interim committee.

Currency markets, often the focus of Group of Seven gatherings, received less attention. Exchange rates have been relatively stable since the ministers' last meeting April 7 in Paris, but the yen remains near a three-year low against the dollar.

In Sunday's statement, the officials "noted with satisfaction the recent stability of exchange markets" but said they "remained of the view that the present level may have undesirable consequences for the global adjustment process."

Also on the agenda of the session, closed to reporters and the public, were the economic effects of the reunification of Germany and a review of progress since Brady launched the new debt strategy in March 1989.

The Group of Seven preceding the spring meetings Monday and Tuesday of the IMF and its sister lending organization, the World Bank. Its seal of approval is the crucial first step for the \$60 billion increase in

capital contributions, known as quotas. The U.S. share would be about \$12 billion.

The increase faces opposition from members of Congress sceptical of foreign aid programmes, even though the complex treatment of IMF finances keeps the U.S. contribution from showing up in the budget deficit.

The Group of 24, which represents third world countries, said in a statement that suspending voting rights "will not serve a useful purpose and is not acceptable."

Regarding German unification, the Group of Seven said it "would contribute to improved non-inflationary global growth and to a reduction of external imbalances."

However, most private economists worry that plans to give the East German mark equal value in many instances with the West German mark will add to inflation worldwide, pushing interest rates higher.

The group also supported the one-year-old U.S. plan for attacking the Third World's 1.3 trillion debt burden.

"We were encouraged by the substantial progress which has been achieved (by the plan)," the statement said.

But that's not likely to satisfy developing nations. They argue for a rethinking of the debt strategy and a huge increase in the IMF's capital base so it can provide money to both the fledgling democracies of Eastern Europe and the poor of the Third World.

Money in a special IMF fund would be used to help the countries pull their economies up.

Egypt raises prices, but more yet to come

By Ashraf Fouad
Reuter

CAIRO — Egypt, risking social unrest, has raised some energy and food prices to clinch a body-needed deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), but economists said Monday the bulk of economic reforms were yet to come.

"The big one will come when they devalue the (Egyptian) pound against the dollar," one economist said.

Egypt has over the past week more than doubled butane gas prices, increased petrol and other oil products prices by up to 60 per cent and raised prices for several basic food items.

Government officials, fearing unrest similar to food riots in 1977 which forced Cairo to cancel price hikes, said the new prices remained below international levels.

But the economists said proposed IMF reforms included harsher measures which would have wider effects on the country's stagnant economy and its 55 million people, for whom the government imports more than half its food they eat.

"Raising prices, deposit and exchange rates would be too many inflationary measures which the economy cannot take in one go," Oxford-educated economist Murad Wahba said.

Asia expected to lead world's growth

By John Pomfret
Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Despite the rush to finance Eastern Europe's transition to a market economy, Asia is expected to maintain its position as the world's fastest growing region, Asian Development Bank economists said Monday.

News reports predicting a drop in Asian economic performance because of changes in the Soviet Bloc are "overblown," said Malcolm Dowling, assistant chief economist at the Asian Development Bank.

"Asia is still the place to make money," said Hatchung Choo, the bank's chief economist. "That won't change."

The bank officials spoke at a news conference marking the start of the bank's 33rd annual meeting and the release of its annual report on economic development in Asia.

In the report, the bank criticised China for abandoning ambitious economic reforms, called on India to open its closed markets, praised Vietnam for economic liberalisation and warned that the Philippines' economy faced "underlying weaknesses."

Falling growth rates in China, India and two of the four "little dragons," Hong Kong and South Korea, brought Asia's regional growth rate to 5.4 per cent in 1989, down from 9.3 per cent in 1988, the report said.

The report predicted a re-

The main obstacle in Egypt's two years of talks with the IMF has been speed of implementing politically and socially-sensitive reforms.

"The government can not risk implementing all reforms at one go because of possible political upheavals," said Wahba, an economics professor at the American University in Cairo.

President Hosni Mubarak warned last week that Cairo could no longer afford to subsidise basic goods as the population grew by a million every eight months. He put annual imports at \$10 billion, while foreign currency revenue was only about six billion.

He said a deal with the IMF was needed. "There is no way out and we will have to endure." He put subsidies, a legacy of the socialist policies of late President Gamal Abdul Nasser, at 3.6 billion pounds (\$1.4 billion).

The economists said the IMF was seeking an "actual flotation" of the Egyptian currency and a rise in interest rates to combat inflation running at an annual rate of more than 30 per cent.

Cairo has gradually raised the dollar's value over the past year by about 15 piasters to around 2.67 pounds, but bankers said the IMF was demanding an exchange rate of more than three pounds.

Cairo was offering 2.80 pounds to the dollar, they said.

Capital flight from Hong Kong soars

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong's main financial institution says it has detected what is almost certainly a significant increase in capital flight from the jittery British colony which reverts to Chinese rule in 1997.

The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation's latest monthly economic report said it estimated a net outflow of private non-trade capital of around 22.4 billion dollars (2.8 billion U.S. dollars) in 1989.

It said this was at least partly in response to Peking's bloody suppression of the pro-democracy movement last June.

Hong Kong's confidence in the future was badly damaged by the crackdown despite Chinese pledges that Peking had no intention of changing the territory's freewheeling capitalist system.

Emigration soared as Chinese officials angrily attacked plans to introduce limited democratic reform in Hong Kong and a British plan to grant 50,000 key personnel and their families British passports as a safety net.

Hong Kong does not publish detailed current account statistics in its overall balance of payments figures, making it hard to estimate accurately the amount of private capital leaving the colony.

But analysts have for a long time described capital outflow as one of the black holes of the

colony's economic system.

The Hong Kong's chief economist and the man behind the report is Alan McLean, once senior economist with the government.

Statistics for what is called private non-trade inflow and outflow, which effectively represent private capital coming in and out of Hong Kong, showed a regular inflow up until 1983, when the balance was 3.3 billion dollars (423 million U.S. dollars), the bank said.

Annual net capital outflows of between two billion (\$256 million) to nine billion dollars (1.15 billion U.S. dollars) from 1983 to 1988 were detected, it said.

The significant increase in net capital outflow in 1989 was the result of a loss of confidence in the future prospects of the economy and can be expected to continue until confidence is restored, the bank said.

If the outflow were to persist, a large surplus on trade in goods and services would be required to finance it, which could in turn restrain the growth rate of the economy, the bank said.

The bank recorded a net outflow of \$9 billion dollars (1.14 billion U.S. dollars) in 1984, the year Britain and China signed the agreement governing the territory's return to Peking.

But the agreement did not convince oil markets that excess oil will disappear and prices fell further after last Thursday's pact.

OPEC had agreed to keep its output at 22,086 million BPD in the first half of 1990.

North African states to form joint airline

ALGIERS (R) — Transport ministers from five North African states approved a draft agreement Sunday to form a joint airline, the Algerian News Agency (AP) said.

The airline, dubbed Air Maghreb, would start alongside the existing carriers of Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, which formed a regional economic grouping last year.

Officials have said the airline would start by serving selected cities within the region and gradually absorb routes, planes and crews of the five existing carriers.

The ultimate goal, agreed at a two-day ministers' meeting in Algiers, is a regional giant able to compete with European carriers that now dominate the heavy tourist, migrant worker and business traffic to and from North Africa.

AP said directors of the five airlines — Air Algeria, Libyan Arab Airlines, Air Mauritania, Royal Air Maroc and Tunis Air — would meet in Casablanca June 5 to finalise the new airline's creation.

They would also discuss plans to begin integrating the airlines and coordinate equipment purchases, maintenance, training and insurance coverage, the agency said.

The five airlines agreed last week in Tunis to recognise each other's tickets automatically, share revenues on some lines, service each other's planes and run joint training programmes.

The ministers also discussed plans to expand the region's rail network to stretch from the Libyan city of Tobruk in the east to Mauritanian capital of Nouakchott in the west.

They agreed that a first set would be construction of a new line from Sfax in Tunisia to the Libyan capital of Tripoli.

The ministers agreed to work toward cutting the train travel time between Tunis and Casablanca to 30 hours from around 38 now, and to study the introduction of high-speed trains.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR Tuesday May 8, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a perfect day for you to sort through just what your particular emotional problem is and to figure out how it can be handled in a sensible and well rounded fashion.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Whatever advanced interest has come into your life can be developed in the morning for late usual activities can be uppermost as things for you to finish.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Consider well how to smooth over some tension about an obligation to which you are committed later in day after easily at seeing situation clearly.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You understand early a pretty scatterbrained person and can handle that individual better later avoid because you can get irked, make wrong moves.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Easier in early in important activities to put in motion, then continue them with steadfastness even though you are eager to get off to the new.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) If you have some risk you want to take so do early in the day for later you should be engaged in concentrating on performing a task.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are apt to have considerable irritation as the day passes about some condition at your residence, but consider and handle in an impersonal way.

'OPEC output cut pledges uncertain'

NICOSIA (R) — Although pledges by some producers to curb production as part of an OPEC-wide cutback to shore up oil prices look dubious, a cut of one million barrels per day may do the trick, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Monday.

Commenting on the agreement at last week's Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meeting in Geneva to cut total output by OPEC by 1.445 million barrels per day (BPD), MEES said a reduction of 800,000 to one million BPD was possible.

"It might be fair to say that probably something between 800,000 and one million BPD of the proposed OPEC output reduction looks reasonably solid, while the rest lies in a grey area which does not inspire a great deal of confidence," the Nicosia-based oil industry newsletter said.

MEES said the UAE refuses to honour its OPEC quota, claiming its allocations were too small for the size of its reserves and production capacities.

The credibility of Saudi Arabia's declared return to quota is nowhere called into question, MEES said. Saudi Arabia said, it would lower output immediately to its OPEC quota level of 5.38 million BPD from an estimated 5.81 million.

MEES said another source of uncertainty was Venezuela's crude oil output capacity test planned for July, despite pledges by Venezuelan authorities that any oil produced above its quota would go into storage.

But it added that "if on top of the estimated decline in April output (to 23.5 million BPD from 24 million in March), the Geneva agreement does succeed in removing even a million BPD of actual volume from the market in May-June, this will undoubtedly have a salutary effect."

OPEC's 13 members had agreed last week to make the cuts in the May-June period, from an estimated 23.5 million BPD in April, to help crude market prices recover from a drop of more than 25 per cent since January.

But the agreement did not convince oil markets that excess oil will disappear and prices fell further after last Thursday's pact.

"In this way it is hoped that the effect of the OPEC volume restraint will start to make itself felt in May rather than in June-July," MEES said.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

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Print answer here: THE

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BROIL JUICE EULOGY BAMBOO

Answer: What little whales like best—BLUBBER GUM

ECONOMY NEWS IN BRIEF

Libya makes major oil strikes

NICOSIA (AP) — Libya has made two major oil discoveries in the Bu Attifel field with preliminary estimates indicating the deposits contain the equivalent of 800 million barrels of crude, the Middle East Economic Survey reported Monday. The oil industry newsletter, published in Cyprus, said the first discovery was made last month 30 kilometres east of Bu Attifel in the Sirte Basin. The strike was made in a sandstone formation at a depth of around 5,500 metres, one of the deepest wells drilled in the region, the weekly survey reported. The well tested at 11,000 barrels a day, it said. Preliminary estimates of reserves were put at around 300 million barrels. The second strike was further south and tested at 5,000 barrels a day, MEES said. Preliminary estimates there were at least 500 million barrels. Bu Attifel is operated by Italy's Agip Oil Company. Production at the field over the last 17 years has totalled some 900 million barrels a day.

Egypt price hikes to save \$355 m

CAIRO (R) — Price rises for petrol and kerosene announced Sunday would save the Egyptian treasury 950 million pounds (\$355 million) a year, oil minister Abdul-Hadi Kandeel said in remarks published Monday. Kandeel told Cairo newspapers that despite the price hikes of between 40 and 60 per cent annual government subsidies on consumer oil products would still amount to about

Gardner triumphs in Spanish Grand Prix

JEREZ, Spain (AP) — Australia's Wayne Gardner launched a furious attack on Wayne Rainey of the U.S. to win the \$500,000 Citizen Cup for her fourth straight tournament victory.

Gardner seized the lead from Rainey on the 19th lap of the 20-lap race and forged ahead to win by seven seconds and move into second place behind the American in the world championship standings.

Rainey piloted his Yamaha into an early lead in the 122-320 race, with 1987 world champion Gardner and American Kevin Schwantz in pursuit.

Gardner, chasing hard on his Honda, narrowed the advantage and cut inside Rainey on a sharp curve to take the lead.

The Australian stretched away, with Rainey apparently unwilling to take risks.

Gardner clinched his 16th grand prix victory in 52 minutes 38.021 seconds at an average speed of 138.564 KPH, with Rainey second and Schwantz third, on his Suzuki. Australian Michael Doohan, who started in pole position, was fourth.

"It's a nice feeling to be back," said Gardner, whose confidence had taken a blow after spills at last month's U.S. Grand Prix in Laguna Seca and practice in Jerez.

"It looked at times as if things weren't going to work."

Rainey, still 20 points clear in the world championship standings, was unuffled by defeat.

I had my mind made up to just ride my own race, he said, denying he had shied from taking risks. "Wayne just rode better I guess."

Graf struggles fourth but wins title of the year

HAMBURG, West Germany (AP) — Steffi Graf of West Germany rallied after dropping the first set to beat Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain 5-7, 6-0, 6-1, Sunday, winning the \$350,000 Citizen Cup for her fourth straight tournament victory.

Graf, the top-ranked player in the world, needed more than two hours in hot weather and on a slow clay to fight off a stiff challenge from the French Open champion, ranked fourth in the world.

"I didn't expect Arantxa to play as well as she did," Graf said. "She didn't miss a ball in the first three games. But I played more intelligently after the first set and everything went right. I played much better."

The German teenager seemed to playing below her normal level in the opening set. After losing her first two service games of the match, twice she was a point away from trailing 0-4. But both times she forced Sanchez-Vicario into an error to tie the point.

Graf appeared to settle at that point, breaking Sanchez-Vicario's hold and to get withing 2-3. But Graf's forehand was erratic and Sanchez-Vicario broke back and then held to lead 3-2.

Then it was Sanchez-Vicario's turn to commit errors, double-faulting to give Graf break point, which Graf won with a powerful smash.

Sanchez-Vicario again lost serve, double-faulting to even the set at 5-5. But Graf, still struggling with her forehand, dropped her serve in the 11th game and then the set.

The match completely changed in the second set, however, as Graf suddenly found her range

and Sanchez-Vicario found she could not longer chase every ball.

Graf won the set 3-0 in 34 minutes but was still pushed to reduce in five of the six games.

But Graf again dropped her serve at the start of the final set to give Sanchez-Vicario hope. However, Graf immediately broke back and did not lose another game.

The victory was Graf's fourth title of the year and moves her back into first place in the tour points standing.

"I had many chances but I didn't have the luck," said Sanchez-Vicario, who eliminated Martina Navratilova in the semifinals. "She played so much better in the third set but I'm happy because I had a good tournament and I played very well."

"I've worked very hard and my game has improved a lot. Now I need to work some more to get to no. 1."

In other games, unseeded Kelly Jones of the United States outlasted seventh-seeded Richard Fromberg of Australia in a third-set tiebreaker 7-4 Sunday, successfully defending his Epson Singapore super tennis championship.

The 26-year-old from San Diego took 2 1/2 hours to defeat Fromberg 6-4, 2-6, 7-6, and be-

Capriati overpowers Laskova

ROME (AP) — Fourteen-year-old Jennifer Capriati of the United States looked strong in her European professional debut Monday, overpowering Czechoslovakian Leona Laskova 6-0, 6-3 in the first round of the Italian Open.

After splitting the opening sets, Jones took an early advantage in the third, winning the opening game off Fromberg's service. Both players held serve until Jones, leading 5-4 and serving for the match, lost the 10th game without winning a point.

Fromberg took a 6-5 lead with his ninth ace of the match. But Jones held serve and the two matched each other in the tiebreaker 4-4 on long baseline rallies until Fromberg's volleys fell wide.

Fromberg started with two aces in the opening game of the match, but Jones broke the 20-year-old Australian in the fifth game. Jones held serve the remainder of the set, including an ace in the 10th game before wrapping up the set.

The lapses did not last long. Serving at 1-2, she sharpened up her powerful groundstrokes and resumed hitting winners down the line and cross court from the baseline to win five of the next six games and close out the match.

In another match involving a seeded player, no. 11 Heleen Keleis of Canada defeated Australia's Jo-Anne Faull 6-4, 6-1.

Soviet wins four more European gold medals

ATHENS (R) — All-round champion Svetlana Boginskaya of the Soviet Union won four more gold medals in individual exercises Sunday to complete a triumphant performance in the women's European gymnastics championships.

Boginskaya, who said after taking the all-round crown Saturday that she would retire in August because she was too old for the sport at 17, extended her golden successes firstly in the vault, her 1988 Olympic winning apparatus.

On the asymmetric bars, the apparatus on which she had never won a medal, she was relaxed and graceful, sharing first place with up-and-coming team mate Nata-

lia Kalinina and another newcomer, Mirela Pasca of Romania.

After passing her toughest test, Boginskaya then gave two brilliant performances.

On the beam, the 1989 world and European all-round champion produced three immaculate backwards vaults, plus a triple backwards-coding one.

The petite, tearful Onodi, who missed the all-round silver by a thousandth of a point, overcame on the beam but saved her day by taking joint third spot on the floor.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIA HIRSCH
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A TRIUMPH FOR TOMMY

Both vulnerable: South deals.

NORTH
♦ A 10 8 6
V Q 7 5
Q 9 6
Q 1 7 4
WEST: * K 0 9 8 7 5 4 3 2
EAST: * J 9 7 5 4 3 2
V A 10 8 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ 9 8 5 3 * 10 6
SOUTH: * A
Q 9 7 4 3 2
Q 8 4 3
A 2
The bidding:
South: West: North: East:
2 ♠ Pass: 3 ♠ Pass:
6 ♠ Pass: Pass: Pass:
Opening lead: King of ♦

The Winter Regional was the one tournament Trump Coup Tommy refused to miss. Over the years, he found there were always one or two hands that suited his peculiar talents—the ability to play like a genius when Trumps broke badly. The 1989 event proved to be especially noteworthy.

An expert might have had a problem bidding the South hand, but not Trump Coup Tommy. Despite his shabby suit, he opened with a demand bid of two hearts, then bounces straight into slam when North raised.

West led the king of spades and

After pulling a spade in hand, Tommy played three rounds of clubs, ending in dummy. When East discarded a spade, it was safe for Tommy to ruff a club. Three rounds of diamonds ended on the table brought about this position:

NORTH
♦ 10 8 6
V Q 7 5
Q 9 6
Q 1 7 4
WEST: * K 0 9 8 7 5 4 3 2
EAST: * J 9 7 5 4 3 2
V A 10 8 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ 9 8 5 3 * 10 6
SOUTH: * A
Q 9 7 4 3 2
Q 8 4 3
A 2
The bidding:
South: West: North: East:
2 ♠ Pass: 3 ♠ Pass:
6 ♠ Pass: Pass: Pass:
Opening lead: King of ♦

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West led the king of spades and

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LITTLE WEAPON

CDU slips in E. German local elections, but stays top party

EAST BERLIN (AP) — East Germany's top political party lost support in the nation's first free local elections, and the country's new prime minister said Monday he wants to find out why.

Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere said "a review of party policy will be conducted" to determine why his Christian Democrats had lost support since East Germany's national elections, reported Radio Free Berlin, based in West Berlin.

The Christian Democrats, leaders of East Germany's governing coalition, finished Sunday's elections with about 7 per cent less support than in national elections on March 18.

In the Sunday balloting, East Germans chose a city councilman from West Germany as mayor of Leipzig, East Germany's second-largest city, early projections indicated.

Local issues dominated individual races, so it was unclear if any dissatisfaction with the rush to unite the two Germanys was a factor in the results.

Despite suffering setbacks, De Maiziere's conservative party captured the most local government seats, followed by the left-leaning Social Democrats, according to West German television (ARD) projections.

The reformed Communist Party, now called the Party of Demo-

cratic Socialism, finished a distant third, the projections found.

Heinrich Lehmann-Grube, a city council member from the West German city of Hanover, won his campaign for mayor of Leipzig, the television projections indicated.

Lehmann-Grube holds dual East and West German citizenship.

Since he became an East German citizen only last month, he was not allowed to vote in the election. However, anyone who is an East German citizen over the age of 18 can be elected to office.

It was not immediately clear whether Lehmann-Grube would resign from the Hanover City Council.

The parties' performances generally reflected the results of the March national elections, when East Germany's first democratic government was elected.

However, De Maiziere's Christian Democrats took only about 34 per cent of the vote in local races, according to projections by the ARD television network, down from the 41 per cent they gained in March.

Walter Berghofer, who was elected as Communist mayor of Dresden in 1986 in elections that

were widely presumed to be rigged, lost a bid to hang onto his office, the projections indicated.

Sunday's voting was only the second free election in East Germany's four-decade history and brought the revolt against Stalinist oppression full circle.

In the last local elections on May 7, 1989, the Communist government had claimed that candidates it backed won 99 per cent of the vote.

The protests that followed eventually exploded into the mass demonstrations that ousted hardline Communist leader Erich Honecker in October and opened the Berlin Wall.

The Christian Democrats won the March elections by promising prosperity to East Germans through a fast merger with West Germany and a quick shift to a free market economy.

Since then, there have been widespread fears that East Germans will suffer unemployment and lower living standards when they lose their vast Socialist control.

The balloting followed widespread clashes in East Berlin the night before between right-wing radicals and foreign workers. Eight people were reportedly arrested and five were injured.

The elections likely were the last for East Germany as a sovereign state. Unification with West Germany is expected to be completed next year.

Roh asks S. Koreans to help prevent nation from 'chaos'

SEOUL (AP) — President Roh Tae-Woo asked South Koreans Monday to help prevent the nation from slipping into "chaos" but radical students stormed his party's headquarters, firebombed a provincial party office and clashed with police in six cities.

The radical National Council of Student Representatives and the People's Alliance, an umbrella alliance of 17 dissident groups, announced new nationwide protests aimed at forcing the governing Democratic Liberal Party to disband. The group urged citizens to join them.

Security was being stepped up around government office buildings to guard against surprise attacks in connection with a governing party convention to be held Wednesday, according to the National Police Headquarters.

As Roh was speaking on

nationwide television from the presidential palace, 21 radical students seized his party's headquarters and fought off riot police for 10 minutes with firebombs and metal pipes, police and witnesses said.

The radicals barricaded themselves in a third-floor office, broke the office windows and threw firebombs at police while shouting anti-government slogans, witnesses said.

Korean news reports said the group scattered leaflets demanding the ouster of U.S. Ambassador Donald P. Gregg.

The current governing party was formed by a merger, announced in January, of Roh's party and two conservative opposition parties, and radicals claim Gregg devised the merger to serve conservative U.S. business interests.

The windshields of three cars in an outdoor parking lot were shattered by firebombs and some furniture in the governing party offices was smashed, police said. Five students were injured and all 21 were arrested, police and news reports said.

Radical students also fought police outside university campuses in Kwangju, Muan, Puchon, Yongin and two small towns outside Seoul, according to Yonhap, the South Korean news agency. About 2,500 students took part, it said. There were no reports of arrests or injuries.

Ten radical students buried firebombs and smashed windows at the Wonju City chapter of the governing party and fled before police arrived, Yonhap said.

Radical students are a small but vocal minority and many Koreans do not approve of their tactics.

Pope urges Mexicans to fight corruption, help poor

MEXICO CITY (R) — Pope John Paul urged Mexicans to fight corruption, help the poor and protect human rights.

He was speaking in Mexico's holiest shrine Sunday, the first day of a grueling 10-city tour.

"You cannot remain indifferent before the suffering of your brothers, before poverty, corruption, and before outrages to the truth and to human rights," he said in the ultra-modern Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Latin America's most popular shrine.

The Pope did not elaborate on his comments made before some 11,000 people inside the basilica, built on the spot where the Madonna is said to have appeared in the 16th century, and the tens of thousands who listened to the ceremony outside.

During the ceremony the Pope beatified three 16th-century Indian children killed for converting to Christianity, a man who claimed to have seen the Madonna in 1531 and a 19th-century priest who founded a religious order to help the poor.

"We are living through crucial moments for the future of this dear country as well as for this Latin American continent," the Pontiff said at the airport as President Carlos Salinas de Gortari welcomed him on his second trip to the country he first visited in 1979.

The Pope said all Mexicans had to work together to overcome the sound of automatic arms fire as civilians in the militia uniform of green trousers and blue shirts received weapons training from military instructors.

Cubans from 17-year-old youths to 65-year-old grandmothers put on black camouflage paint, crawled through assault courses and learned how to shoot and throw hand grenades.

China condemns Western press freedoms

PEKING (R) — China Monday renewed its attack on the Voice of America (VOA), accusing the U.S. government radio of opposing the Communist Party and socialism during political unrest last June.

The People's Daily, in a lengthy commentary, also accused unnamed U.S. publications of spreading counter-revolutionary rumors.

"During the counter-revolutionary rebellion at the end of spring and beginning of summer last year, the Voice of America and American publications disseminated rumors and absurdities that opposed China's Communist Party and socialism and attacked our government's efforts to put down turmoil," the official newspaper said.

"At the same time, reports on the real situation during the turmoil were blocked," it added.

The commentary also said press freedom in the United States was designed to serve the ruling class and that only Socialist press freedom had the interest of the masses at heart.

Police said that of the 106 people injured, six were in critical

condition.

New South Wales Transport Minister Bruce Baird said it was

possible an emergency brake on the steam train, which had been

resulting in at least six deaths and

more than 100 injuries.

Rescue teams continued cutting at the wreckage of a steam train and an inter-urban express, fearing more people were trapped.

The crash happened near the hamlet of Brooklyn, 40

kilometers north of Sydney.

Police said that of the 106

people injured, six were in critical

condition.

The steam train also was

travelling south with about 330

people who had attended a jazz

festival in the Hunter Valley, 160

kilometers north of Sydney.

"Clearly there was something

wrong as to why it didn't get up the hill," Baird said.

The inter-urban passenger

train with an estimated 100 people

on board was travelling south to Sydney from the city of Newcastle when it slammed into the rear of the steam train as it

struggled up a steep gradient.

The steam train also was

travelling south with about 330

people who had attended a jazz

festival in the Hunter Valley, 160

kilometers north of Sydney.

"Clearly there was something

wrong as to why it didn't get up the hill," Baird said.

Debris from the two trains was

scattered for up to 100 metres.

wounded late Friday in Olongapo, a town near the U.S.-run Subic Bay Naval Base.

The U.S. military banned off-

post leaves for the 40,000 troops,

Defence Department civilians,

and military dependents at Subic Bay and five other U.S. bases in the Philippines after the killing.

Military officials said the re-

striction had not been lifted after the arrests.

Merchants in Olongapo com-

plained that their businesses were

being hurt by the ban on off-post

leaves and by speculation that the

rebels were responsible for the

killing.

Police initially speculated the

killers were Communist rebels.

Robbery did not appear the mo-

tive because Fredette's watch and

wallet were not taken, police said.

On Sunday, however, police

commanders said they believed the

rebels were not involved and that

Fredette was either killed by

mistake or as part of a drug deal.

Police sources, speaking on

condition of anonymity, said some senior officials still sus-

pected the killers were NPA

guerrillas.

The sources said civilian au-

thorities were eager to exonerate

the rebels so the navy would lift

restrictions on its personnel.

The economies of Olongapo and

Angels, home of Clark Air

Base, depend heavily on spend-

ing by off-duty troops.

Police said no one saw the

actual shooting. But in a report to

national police headquarters in

Manila, Torres said two witnesses

saw the suspect at the crime

scene at the time of the attack.

Torres said the murder weapon

— believed to be a .38-caliber

pistol — was not found.

Plum, dropped the contempt

charge and additional fine.

Plum again refused, Plum cited him for

contempt and fined him \$150.

Wagner, 33, refused a third re-

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Plum hit him with a 10-day

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Wagner's parents paid the \$150

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